

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please cancel the six (6) drawings sheets comprising Figures 1-6 presently on file and substitute therefore the enclosed six (6) Replacement Sheets of drawings comprising Figure 1-6.

The drawings as originally filed included a number of reference numerals for which the associated call-out lines were omitted, and accordingly the missing call-out lines have been added through out the drawings. In particular, call-out lines have been added in each of the Figures for reference numerals that include the following:

Figure 1: 10; 21; 30; 31; 32; 34b; 38; 38a; 38c; 40; 43 and 53.

Figure 2: 10; 21; 31; 38; and 39.

Figure 3: 10; 21; 38 and 39.

Figure 4a: 60

Figure 4b: 66

Figure 5: 10; 106

Figure 6: 12; 18; 21; 27; 34a; 38; 39; 43a; and 48.

REMARKS

Clarifying amendments have been made to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 13, and 18 as indicated in the attached claim listing. In view of the amendments to claim 1, claims 3, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended to depend from claim 1, and claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 4. New claims 26-40 have been added to clarify the scope of protection being sought. Claims 1-40 are currently pending in the application, including independent claims 1, 13, 20, 30, and 34.

Excess claims fees are payable for the addition of 2 new independent claims and 15 new claims in total, and such fees are being submitted electronically simultaneously herewith.

Applicant submits the amended claims are supported by the application as originally filed. For example, the amendments to independent claims 1 and 13 to clarify that the claimed apparatus includes a valve pin and that the stagnation zone cleaner is movable independently of the valve pin are supported by original claims 1 and 6 and 20, among other places; new independent claim 30 is supported by Figure 1-3 and the accompanying description of such Figures; and new independent claim 34 (which is directed to a valve pin-less embodiment) is supported by Figure 5 and paragraph [0043] of the specification as originally filed.

As noted above, the drawings as originally filed included a number of reference numerals for which the associated call-out lines were omitted, and accordingly the missing call-out lines have been added through out the drawings. Applicant submits that no new subject matter has been added by the present amendments.

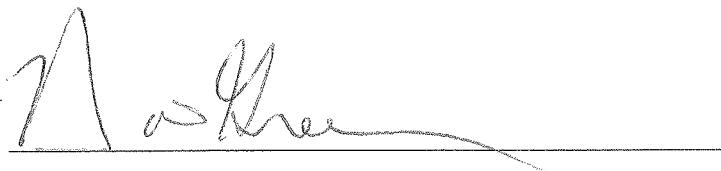
Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, which is requested.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an accompanying fee transmittal form please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 13-2400

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (416) 868-1482.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Greer", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David J. Greer, Regn. No. 43, 395

Ridout & Maybee LLP
1 Queen Street East, Suite 2400
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Date: January 14, 2008
Tele No.: 416-868-1482
Fax No.: 416-362-0823